

# STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

## PROCLAMATION SUBSTANCE USE PREVENTION MONTH OCTOBER 2025

WHEREAS, the misuse of alcohol, prescription medications and other drugs continues to pose serious health, social and economic challenges in North Dakota, with recent data showing that 64% of North Dakota adults report alcohol use in the past month and that over 11% of North Dakota high school students report initiating alcohol use before age 13; and

WHEREAS, youth and young adults in North Dakota remain especially vulnerable to substance use initiation during critical developmental periods, and early substance use is associated with increased risk of substance use disorder and other adverse outcomes; and

WHEREAS, it is recognized that substance misuse is a preventable public health problem for all North Dakotans, and substance use prevention is a priority in North Dakota; and

WHEREAS, the North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services emphasizes prevention strategies, which are grounded in data and evidence and are among the most effective means to reduce initiation and escalation of substance use and its consequences, and supports data-driven prevention planning statewide; and

WHEREAS, cross-sector collaboration among state and local agencies, schools, community coalitions, health care systems and families is essential to shifting environmental, social and cultural norms around substance use and promoting positive, healthy behaviors, underscoring that investments upstream in prevention can reduce demand for more intensive behavioral health services later; and

WHEREAS, designating October as Substance Use Prevention Month provides an opportunity to raise awareness, strengthen partnerships, highlight local work and encourage renewed, sustained commitment to prevention efforts across all North Dakota communities, building healthier and safer communities statewide.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim  
October 2025, **SUBSTANCE USE PREVENTION MONTH**  
in the State of North Dakota.



  
Kelly Armstrong  
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:   
Michael Howe  
SECRETARY OF STATE